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Did the Teacher of Righteousness prophesy Jesus?

4Q541 of the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) is a vital fragment that sheds light on the Teacher of Righteousness, the fragment's most likely author. In it, he prophesied Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection. His other writings, especially those concerning the "coming of Melchizedek" in 11q13, fill in crucial missing information about the Bible and prophecy. In light of his fantastic prophecy about Jesus, the Teacher's claims to contact with the divine world deserve serious consideration.

[4Q541 consists of 25 fragments, two of which have been joined to reduce the number to 24. There is also a second copy, of which three fragments survive. It has been dated to about 100 B.C.E. on paleographic grounds (the shape and stance of the letters).]

4Q541

Frgs. 1 + 2 col. i

the totality has meditated up[on ...] ... [...] **4 the idols will**
fall [...] ... [...] **5 and all th[eir] breaths [...] he will [utt]er [wo]rds, and in**
conformity with the will of God, he will keep [...] ... for me another book
7 and a seco[nd ... and] I [sp]oke about him in enigmas 8 [...] and near to me,
but far from me 9 [... Th]is will b[e ...] his [vi]sion. And I said: «The fruits

Frgs. 2 col. ii + 3 + 4 col. i + 5 1

[...] Beho[ld ...] 2 fr[om] before God [...]
3 you will take the smitten [...] 4 And I will bless {you} the holocaust [...] ...
the foundation of your peace [...] ... 5 your spirit, and you will rejoice [...] To
you I [addre]ss [my] poems [...] ... 6 Behold a wise man wh[o ris]es to st[udy
the instruction of wisdom] and understands the depths and utters enigmas.
7 Greece ... [...] The in[struction of wis]dom will come before you who has
taken her nest, and the bird, he has hunted it and he has sought [it ...] to eat.

Behold, you will much rejoice and] much the place of

Frag. 4 col. ii + 6

1 [and] the earth [...] 2 to **the son of Jo[seph ...]** those
smitten for ... [...] 3 here [...] your [ju]dgment and you will not be gui[lty ...]
4 your blood [...] the blows of your pains (?) wh[ich ...] 5 for the captives
from [...] ... your deposit and all [...] 6 of ... [...] ... your heart from [...]
Frag. 7 1 [...] ... [...] 2 who does not understand, and the writing [...] 3 and **he**
will make the great sea be silent for [...] 4 **Then, the books of wisd[om] will**
be opened [...] his word. And, like the wi[ck]ed ones, [the] wi[se ones ...]
6 [his t]eachi[ng ...]

Frag. 9 col. i

He will atone for all the children of his generation, and he will be sent to all the children of his people. His word is like the word of the heavens, and his teaching is in accordance with the will of God. His eternal sun will shine and his light will be kindled in all the corners of the earth, and it will shine on the darkness. Then the darkness will pass away from the earth and thick darkness from the dry land. They will utter many words against him, and they will fabricate many lies and fictions against him, and speak shameful things about him. Evil will overthrow his generation...His situation will be one of lying and violence and his people will go astray and be confounded.

Frag. 9 col. ii

3 [...] ... [...] 4 [... w]ho has seen one [...] 5 seven rams
watch[ing ...] 6 some of his sons will go [...] 7 and they will be added to ...
[...]

Frag. 24 col. ii

[...] **“Do [n]ot mourn for [him ... God will set many things right...many revealed things**

Examine and seek and know what the dove (or Jonah?) sought (?) and do not afflict the weak by wasting or hanging...[Let] not the nail approach him. So you will establish for your father a name of joy, and for your brothers a proven foundation...You will see and rejoice in the eternal light, and you will not be an enemy."

In 4q541 above, the Teacher of Righteousness addresses his community about his vision of an important person who will soon come into the world. The information in the bold text describes Jesus perfectly. The Teacher is telling his people about Jesus and warning them to avoid taking any part in his upcoming crucifixion (hanging by the nail). If they do, they will **rejoice in the eternal light** and set up a firm foundation for themselves and their family. The reference to **"Jonah"** is an allusion to Jesus' resurrection after three days found in—

Matthew 12:39.

The Jews asked Jesus for a sign to prove he was who he said he was

*Jesus replied, "A wicked and adulterous generation demands a sign, but none will be given it except **the sign of the prophet Jonah.**"*

Notice also that **"son of Joseph"** is part the Teacher's address.

Read this fragmentary scroll and decide for yourself if the Teacher was an important Prophet. If you agree that he was, reviewing his other writings would be worthwhile. He wrote much of the sectarian scroll material. His Thanksgiving Hymns will give you a good idea about who he was. He was God's suffering servant and major Prophet during this time.

The mainstream Jewish leaders had gone astray, and the Teacher led a community that had broken away from that corruption. His community was the faithful remnant of the Jewish movement. The 11q13 scroll, also by the Teacher, contains missing information about Melchizedek that is crucial to understanding Old Testament scripture and Prophecy. See my other writings on Melchizedek, the Two Lords of the Old Testament, the Two Messiahs, and *Emily Dickinson, Poet and Prophet, "My message must be told!"*